

## 2016 REGIONAL ELECTION IN GALICIA. POST-ELECTION REVIEWS

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### *Regional PP leader Feijoo wins again*

The Popular Party (PP) has obtained 47.5% of the votes, far outstripping the other parties. It is PP leader Núñez Feijoo's third absolute majority and the second time he obtains 41 seats in Parliament. The results are nothing new or a surprise. All forecasts presented a clear victory and only a couple cast doubts on whether the absolute majority (38 seats) would be achieved or not.

Despite the increase in abstention, the PP received 15,000 more votes than in the previous regional election. The national situation being tumultuous and hit by corruption mostly affecting the PP, Núñez Feijoo tried to keep his role and campaign as far away from that as possible. In addition, he focused his last term of office, particularly the last stretch, on transparency and democratic quality. On the whole, Feijoo's government action was evaluated as acceptable, also amongst the other parties. In any case, his evaluation results were much better than those of the central Government.

### GALICIA: 2016 Regional Election. Provisional results

		% abstention	
Residents in Galicia	2,255,602	36.3 (+0.7)	
Electoral roll (*)	2,701,837	46.8	
		% votes	Deputies
PP	676,676	47.5 (+2.4)	41 (=)
En Marea	271,418	18.4 (+5.3)	14 (+5)
PSdeG-PSOE	254,552	17.7 (-2.4)	14 (-4)
BNG-NÓS	118,982	8.3 (-1.6)	6 (-1)
C's	48,103	3.4	-
PACMA	14,785	1.0	-
Other parties	25,092		

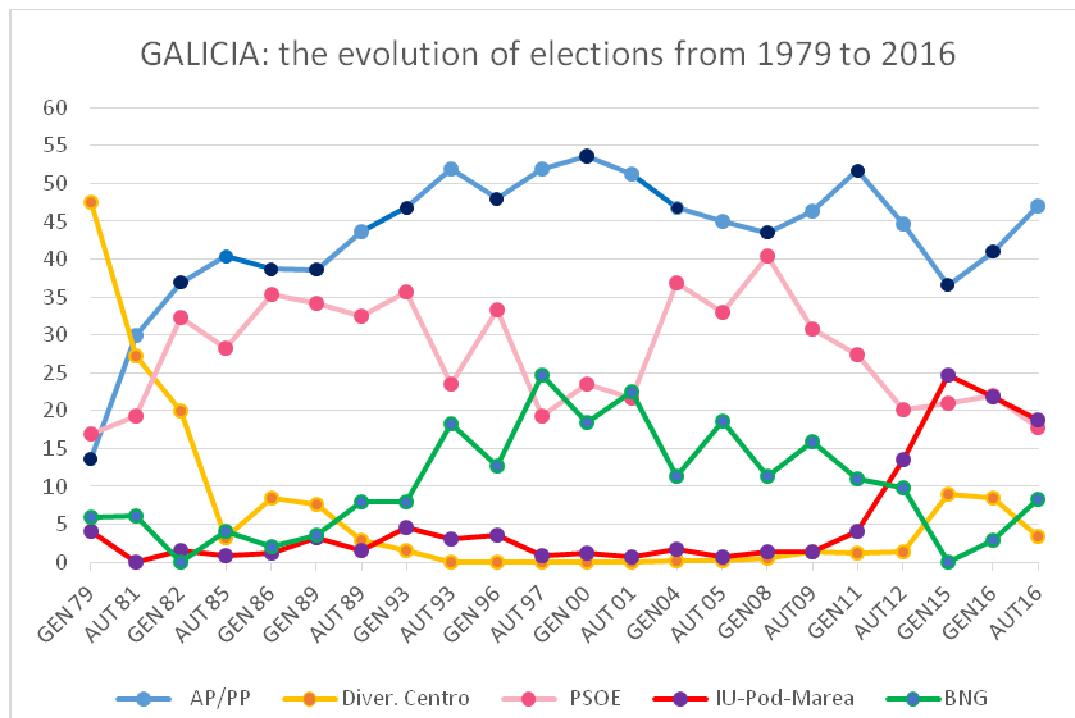
100% of the electoral roll (residents in Galicia; absent residents not included)

Sources: National Statistics Institute (electoral roll) and Government of Galicia (website, electoral results)

Now, can Feijoo take credit for the PP still being on top, even with a slight improvement? Or is this due to the absence of a credible alternative?

The PP has not had a credible opponent that could serve as an alternative. And when the alternative seemed to crystallize in 2005 suddenly supports started to fade away due to the crisis. It is true that the erosion was slow, but enough to entail the loss of... one seat! on behalf of the PP and to allow them to reach an absolute majority in the 2009 election. That was the end of the would-be left-wing two-party government.

The regional Socialist Party (PSdG), left-wing En Marea and nationalist BNG did not have any project or perspective in common that could differentiate them from future or potential partners but with a certain alignment of their programs. In the absence of a shared project these parties started to compete against each other. The scenario was not exciting but an obstacle to the necessary mobilization for change. The absence of an alternative always benefits the government.



\* In order to simplify the chart, the results of UCD, CDS, UPyD and C's have been accumulated under the name "Diver. Centro" (several parties – center, yellow line). The same has been done with PCE, IU, AGE, Podemos and En Marea (red line)<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Translator's Note: "Gen" refers to general elections and "Aut" to regional elections.

### ***An extraordinary victory?***

Since the 1989 regional election the PP has obtained more than 44% in all 8 regional elections held in Galicia, even reaching more than 50% in 3 of them. Last weekend's victory is not an "extraordinary" victory just like all national media put it with the aim of strengthening the image of the right-wing party with a view to the appointment of the new President at national level. The PP has certainly achieved overwhelming results in Galicia, as they have "always" done. It has been an "ordinary" triumph within the Galician reality: ratification, continuation.

But then, why have the results obtained also last weekend in the Basque Country (10% of the votes) not been considered a fiasco and a disaster by the right-wing party? After all, from the regional election in 1994 until that of 2009, results had always been above 14%. And with respect to 2012, the PP has lost 1.2 points. Election information? Partisan interpretation? Interested manipulation?

### ***Age and vote***

The regions of Galicia, Castilla y León and Asturias are at the top of the list in terms of percentage of voters over 55. Several studies prove that the support received by the PP, followed by the PSOE, from voters over 55 (and, in particular, from voters over 65) is much higher than the average. On the contrary, support given by voters under 35 is much lower.

In Galicia, voters over 55 make up to 46% of the electoral roll (compared to 39% at a national scale) and 64% of PP votes (almost two thirds) come from this group – 56% with regard to PSOE. On the other hand, this group of voters represents around 25% of the voters of En Marea and BNG.

Greater contrast can be observed with regard to the voters over 64. They represent 30% of the electoral roll in Galicia. Half of PP voters (48%), retired and pensioners, are part of this group, while the percentage in the case of PSOE is lower – 34%. By contrast, voters under 35, representing 17% of the Galician electoral roll, make up to 9% of the PP voters and 30% of the voters of En Marea. At national scale identical patterns age/vote can be observed, albeit less intensely than in Galicia (Data obtained from the pre-election poll carried out in Galicia by the Centre for Sociological Research –CIS–, 2016).